

MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
DECEMBER 2, 1999

A special called meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Thursday, December 2, 1999, at 10:00 a.m. in room 507 of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker.

Member absent: Sara Fox

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Executive Director, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton-White.

Guest in attendance: Andy Kanengiser, The Clarion Ledger; Terry Casserino, The Sun Herald; and Kelly Flanagan, WLOX Television.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman George Walker at 10:00 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

The invocation was given by Yvonne Brown.

Review of Agenda

On a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the agenda for the special meeting as presented.

John Junkin made a motion, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, that the Board consider going into executive session. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman George Walker asked that Dr. Olon Ray and Sandra Lucas remain in the meeting. The meeting was closed and all other participants left the Board room.

John Junkin made a motion, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, that the Board go into executive session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session with respect to prospective litigation regarding the opinion of the Attorney General on the IHL-USM-Gulf Park matter. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Walker then invited the public to return to the Board room and announced the purpose of the executive session. The room was cleared and the Board began the executive session.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board entered into a discussion considering appropriate action in response to the Attorney General's opinion concerning the IHL-USM-Gulf Park Campus expansion.

Dr. Olon Ray distributed a copy of a ruling from United States District Court Judge, Neal Biggers, Jr., relative to the Ayers Case filed November 29, 1999 (Exhibit A).

Dr. Ray distributed a copy of a resolution outlining issues and detailing a course of action involving litigation with regard to the IHL-USM-Gulf Park expansion (Exhibit B). After a discussion, John Junkin made a motion, seconded by Henry Hudspeth, that the Board come out of executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting returned to open session at 10:45 a.m.

Dr. Olon Ray made a recommendation that the Board adopt a resolution outlining the SBCJC's position relative to the section of Mississippi State Law that requires the Board to approve lower level courses, and addressed questions raised subsequent to the issuance of an Attorney General's Opinion dated November, 1998. The resolution defines three premises to be adopted as a result of the opinion, and indicates the SBCJC's commitment to obtaining a resolution to issues related to the IHL-USM-Gulf Park issue. Upon the Executive Director's recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Patricia Puckett, the Board voted to adopt the resolution dated December 2, 1999. Motion passed. (Voting yes - Yvonne Brown, Joanna Heidel, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, Patricia Puckett, William Seal, Hazel Terry, and George Walker. Brenda Collins abstained.)

A copy of the resolution was provided to all news media immediately following the meeting.

Dr. Ray reminded the Board that the ruling issued by Judge Neal Biggers addresses a federal constitutional set of issues and the issue before the Board deals with Mississippi State statutes. And that Judge Biggers has indicated in a footnote on page 6 of his ruling that his decision did not address the state statute related to approval of lower level courses.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

George Walker, Chairman

Olon E. Ray
Executive Director